

Methane Leakage from Oil & Gas Operations: What have we learned from recent studies?

Methane, the principal component of natural gas, is a powerful greenhouse gas. Methane losses across the natural gas supply chain erode the climate benefits of fuel switching to natural gas, reducing or eliminating them for decades. Determining the appropriate role of natural gas in strategies to achieve a low carbon future depends on understanding the amount and root cause of methane emissions from production, delivery and use of natural gas and the degree to which emissions can be reduced. To help improve estimates of natural gas leakage, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) collaborated with over 90 academic and industry partners to quantify methane emissions through a series of 16 independent studies. This presentation will draw on results from these studies and other recent work to discuss major findings and their implications for mitigating emissions.